

Post-Harvest Closure



The “close-down” of the timber harvest operation is one of the most important considerations to the protection of water quality. The installation of the appropriate BMPs at this time will minimize erosion and stream sedimentation following the timber harvest. If the harvest has been effectively planned, the requirements for “close-down” will be minimal. The necessary BMPs should be installed throughout the operation as various portions of the site are harvested.

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Upon completion of the harvest operation:

- ◆ All road surfaces should be crowned, outsloped, insloped or water-barred. Remove berms from the outside edge of the road or trail where water can be channeled.
- ◆ Abandoned roads should be left in a condition that provides adequate drainage without further maintenance.
- ◆ Do not allow closed roads to become stream channels. Divert channelized flow of water off the road surface.



- ◆ Temporary bridges, abutments, culvert pipes or other crossing structures should be removed prior to road closure. All stream channels should be restored to their natural condition.

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- ◆ Cut and fill slopes should be reshaped to a stable gradient and vegetation established on all bare soil areas with a slope greater than five percent.
- ◆ All unnatural debris, such as cans, paper, discarded tires and metal parts, etc., must be removed from landings.
- ◆ Exposed soils prone to erosion should be seeded and mulched at the end of the operation.
- ◆ Fill in ruts and install water bars and erosion barriers to prevent or minimize erosion and sedimentation from roads, skid trails and landings.
- ◆ Inspect erosion control measures periodically and maintain or remove as needed.

Traffic barriers should be placed where appropriate to prevent off-road vehicles from disturbing the recently stabilized areas. Barriers should be visible and well marked, and should not present a safety hazard.

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